Amazonas

B R A S I L

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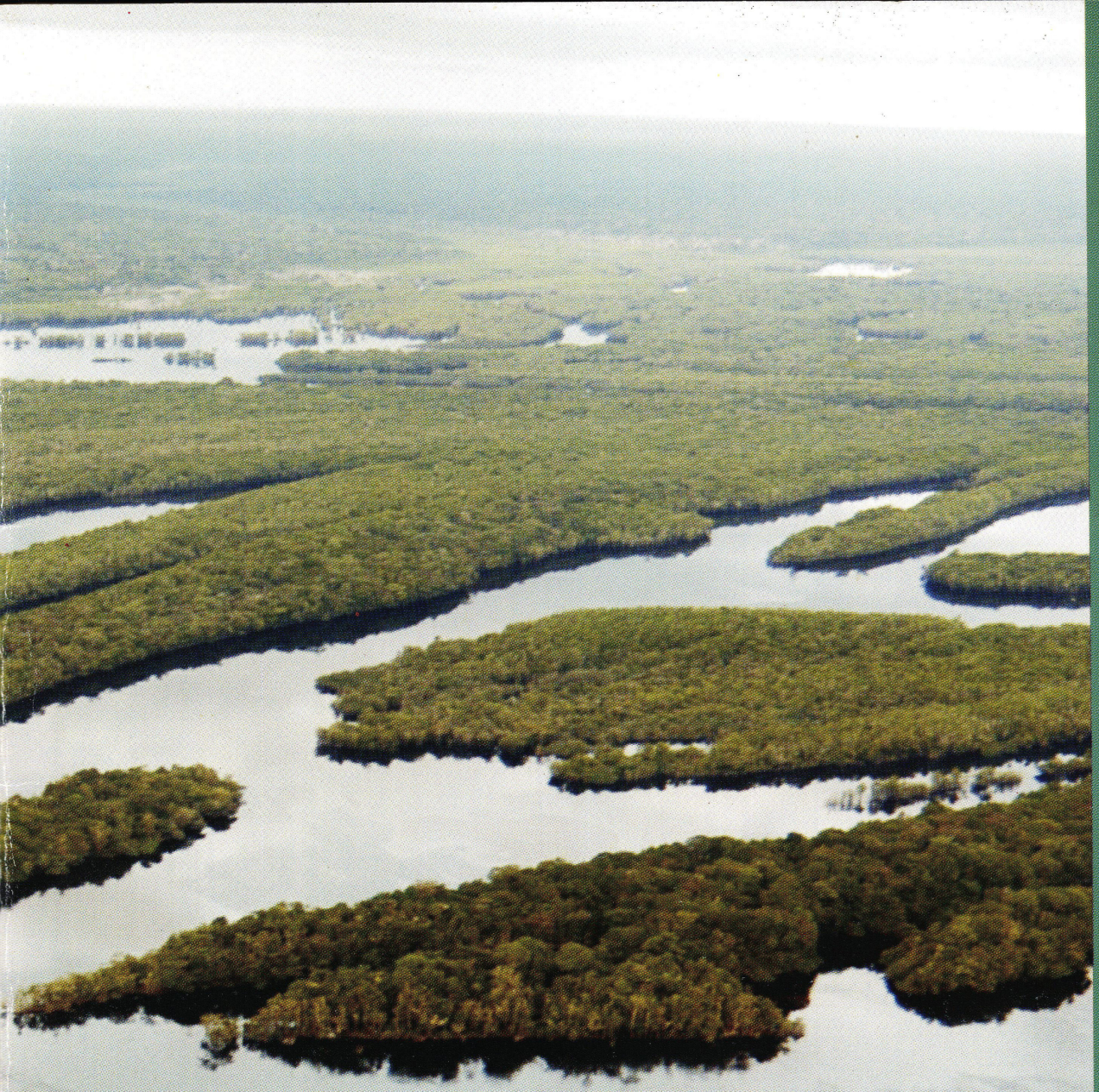
The Amazon River has already stabilized itself as a privileged pathway on the route for cruise vessels. The exuberance of the planet's largest tropical forest, the diversity of the fauna and flora, the richness of the native culture are attractions that seduce tourists from all over the world. There is, therefore, a significant public avid for making a tour to such an enchanting region.



The Amazon Forest is the richest in the planet and provides the habitat for a great variety of plant and animal life forms. The area in question is over 7 million square kilometres of which 5 millions are within the Brazilian territory.

on Region

The main characteristics of the Amazon forest are:

- The largest fresh water basin in water volume measuring 4.982.000 sq.km., Corresponding to a fifth of the freshwater reserves in the world.

- The largest and the most complex ecosystem in the planet.

- A twentieth part of the world surface, four
tenths of South America and three fifths of Brazil.

- A total area of 7.584.21 sq. Km.

- A Brazilian area of 5.033.072 sq. Km.

- 3.650.000 sq. km. of continuous forest, the largest in the world.

- 5.000 species of trees larger than 15 cm in diameter featuring a diversity ranging from 40 to 300 different species per hectare.

- 60 thousand species of plants.

- 2,5 million species of spiders, scorpions and insects in general.

- Over 3 thousand species of fish, over 300 hundred species of mammals and 1.300 species of birds.

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MANAUS

The capital of the State of Amazonas is the gateway to the North of Brazil. A vast network of equipment and services provides the necessary conditions to fully welcome the tourist. No wonder the number of visitors grows each year arriving in the city in cruise ships.

CULTURAL TOURISM

Manaus features a rich historical and cultural heritage, a portrait of the history of a State that lived through moments of luxury and wealth during the rubber boom period (1890-1912) and this is revealed in the smallest details in buildings and monuments such as the majestic Amazonas Opera House.

THE AMAZONAS OPERA HOUSE

The Amazonas Opera House is the most expressive architectural work of Manaus. It was inaugurated in 1896 during the golden age of the Rubber Cycle. It is living symbol of the wealth of that period when famous opera performers and important world ballet companies travelled through the Amazon River up to the capital of the State of Amazonas to stage there the famous gala exhibitions. The building in neoclassic style was designed in Portugal and built with materials imported from Europe. It was completely decorated by European artists featuring furniture and painted allegories. It integrates into its "Programa de Música Erudita e Artes" (Classical Music and Arts Program), the Amazonas Philharmonic Orchestra, The State of Amazonas Chorus and the Dance Corps. It reclaimed its apogee with the Amazonas Opera Festival when world-famous operas are staged and performance by nationally and internationally-known musicians are shown.

THE PRAÇA SÃO SEBASTIÃO CULTURAL COMPLEX

The Praça São Sebastião is one of the richest architectural complexes in Manaus with the Amazonas Opera House, the Court of Justice Palace and the Saint Sebastian Church surrounding it. Several large houses dated from the beginning of the XX century are being remodelled by the State Government and are already used as cultural and tourist spaces with exhibitions and shows: J.G. Araújo's House, Ivete Ibiapina's House and the Restoration House. Nearby there is the Tourist Information Center offering all information and services to tourists.

THE PRAÇA DA MATRIZ CULTURAL COMPLEX

Facing the Manaus Harbour, the Praça da Matriz features the Cathedral in honor of Our Lady of the Conception (Nossa Senhora da Conceição), the Patroness Saint of the State of Amazonas, built by the Carmelite missionaries in the XIX century. Two centuries later it was rebuilt after a fire and redecorated with rich frescos painted on its central nave. This area of the capital is one of the most beautiful featuring many restored historical buildings such as hotels, centennial stores and some of them turned into cultural and tourist spaces, such as the Instalação Theater and the Padre Agostinho and Arthur Reis Libraries, which keeps the Permanent Exhibition Amazonas Moments of History From the Colonial Days to the Manaus Free Trade Zone.

PALÁCIO RIO NEGRO CULTURAL COMPLEX

Declared as State of Amazonas historical and artistic heritage, the building was raised in the beginning of the XX century as home to a rich German businessman who used to export rubber to Europe. The small palace was purchased in 1918 by the State Government to be used as the government seat. It was transformed into a cultural center in 1997.
It keeps a permanent exhibition of historical pieces of furniture, palace decoration and offers several simultaneous exhibitions of plastic arts, photography and sculptures and provides halls for shows offering on-going weekly attractions.

The complex around the Palácio Rio Negro houses a Museum of Numismatics, Image and Sound Library-Museum, the State of Amazonas Public Picture Gallery, the Guarany Movie-theater and the Cultural Reference Space, with a permanent ethnographic exhibition on the Amazon people with a typical house of the riverine dweller, an Indian house, an artistic rendition of a regional boat and a replica of a Manaus tramway dated from the rubber boom period.

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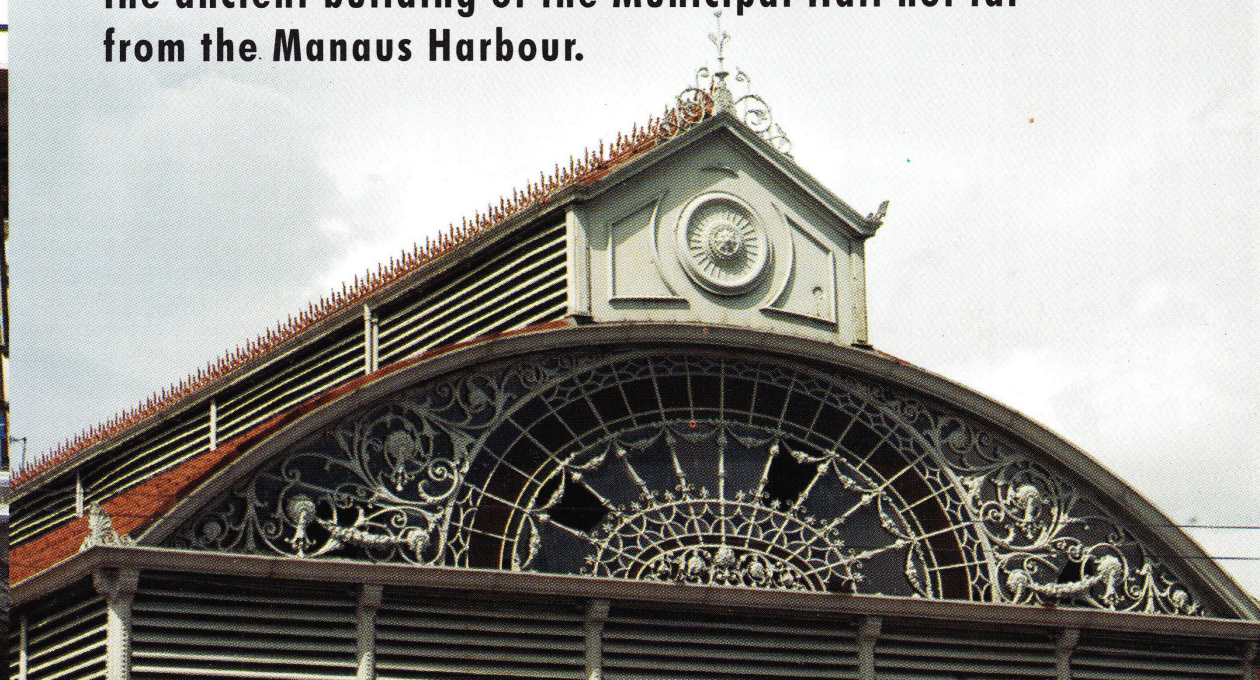
THE ADOLPHO LISBOA CITY MARKET

A building of a rare architectural beauty, a replica of the Les Halles market in Paris. In addition to regional products, a great variety of handicraft goods are sold there. A regional breakfast with the typical flavours of the region is served there, as well.

MUSEUMS

Several ethnographic and natural museums ca be found in Manaus. The Indian Museum exhibits works by the main nations of the Rio Negro region. It is maintained by the Salesian sisters, and shows replicas of native settlements, ceramics, and household utensils, among other pieces. The Amazon region Natural Sciences Museum has an air-conditioned pavilion featuring a collection of embalmed Amazon fish and other animals. The Museu Amazônico (Amazon Museum) keeps historical sources and a register of acts, facts and thoughts of the Amazon man. Its fantastic collection includes, among others, the archives of the Colonial Amazon region. And one of the most attractive is the recently restored Chrisantho Jobim Museum, at the State of Amazonas Historical and Geographical Institute near the ancient building of the Municipal Hall not far from the Manaus Harbour.



THE BOSQUE DA CIÊNCIA (THE SCIENCE GROVE)

The grove was designed to develop and promote programs linked to the observation of nature allowing the visitor to join leisure hours and education and the awareness of the importance of the environment. It feature suspended trails where species from the Amazon fauna can be observed. At the Aquatic Mammal Laboratory, INPA - the National Research Institute for the Amazon) maintains an appropriate tank for the study of manatees, a pioneer place in the world in the reproduction of the species in captivity.

THE CIGS ZOO (JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER)

The Jungle Warfare Training Center is a unit of the Brazilian Army specialized in jungle survival and guerrilla. Some 300 animal, including panthers, tapirs, monkeys, alligators and several species of birds, such as toucans, parrots, eagles and falcons are kept in their Zoo.

THE MINDU MUNICIPAL PARK

This park is the only of its kind in the urban area of Manaus and it features such ecosystems as terra firma jungle, secondary brushwood forest and lowland forest. It is the natural habitat for the sauim-de-coleira primate (sangúínos bicolour bicolour) present only in the city area. There is an amphitheatre where local theatre, music and dance groups provide shows to the public

THE AMAZON OPERA FESTIVAL

Always schedule for April and May, the Amazonas Opera Festival is a unique event in Latin America. Annually, local and international artists exhibit works of world-famous opera composers. The festival is held at the Amazonas Opera House and has as its base, the State of Amazonas Artistic Corps: The Amazon Philharmonic Orchestra (the second best orchestra in Brazil), the State of Amazonas Chorus and the State of Amazonas Dance Corps.

THE CARNABOI

The Carnaboi Manaus is different from all the other events of its kind. On Carnival Monday and Tuesday, tourists and the local population celebrate at the sound of the bumbás toadas (the songs made for the Parintins festival). Trucks carrying regional bands go down the Bumbódromo Avenue dragging behind them hordes of merrymakers. The event brings together nearly one thousand people a day.

THE PARINTINS FOLK FESTIVAL

Brazil is a rich country in artistic and cultural manifestations. In the State of Amazonas, the Parintins Folk Festival is an authentic representation of the creativity, the traditions and the imagination of the people of the region. On the 28th. the 29th. and the 30th of June, divided into two colors blue and red, two ritual bulls, one named Caprichoso and the other Garantido, Parintins becomes the stage for the greatest cultural manifestation in the North of the country. The bumbás (ritual bulls), a tradition dating 80 years back, take the celebration to the streets and divide the hearts of the islanders. At the bumbódromo, the stadium where the exhibitions of the two bulls take place, the creativity of the artists from Parintins seems inexhaustive. Legends and rituals belonging to the Amazonian folklore gain life and explode in lights, colors, emotions and joy during the greatest popular feast in the tropics. The peak of the feast happens on the 28th., 29th. and 30th. of June. The event attracts tourists from all over the world.

NATURE TOURISM

Special tours provide the visitors with the opportunity to know, to learn and the value the forest and its inhabitants. The programs are many and varied.

THE MEETING OF THE WATERS

Departing from the Manaus Harbours, the visitor can observe a unique show: the two largest river of the region meet at approximately ten kilometres from Manaus, the capital of the State of Amazonas merging into the mighty Amazon River. The phenomenon of the meeting of the dark waters of the Negro River with the murky waters of the Solimões River is something amazing, mostly because the two rivers run along side each other for ten kilometres without merging due their differing density, temperature and speed.

During the tour, the visitor will get to know one of the most beautiful Amazonian ecosystems, the igapó, characterized by the high water level of the rivers which move on flooding the forest by the river banks. It is likened to a labyrinth of trees and canals, which one can navigate only by canoe to hear the sounds of the forest, with monkeys, birds and seeds falling down in the water.

River tours include: the Janauary Lake Park located 45 minutes by boat from Manaus. The tourist will see the Giant Water Lilly floating on small lakes and will canoe through the igapó.

HANDICRAFT

The Amazon ethnic and cultural diversity justifies the great variety found in the local and Indian handicraft varying from region to region. On the upper Rio Negro region there is the fiber and seed basketry, in addition to the exotic paintings, made by the Tukano, Baniwa, Dessana Indians, among others. On the upper Solimões River, the Tikuna Indians are known as the only skilled sculptors of the Amazon Region. The Hexykariana distinguish themselves by the beauty of their plumage work, as well as their beautiful ornaments. The Marubo Indians, in turn, dwellers of the Javari Valley, distinguish themselves by their river shell ornaments. And the Saterá-Mauwé Indians produce rich tapestry pieces featuring geometric lines in natural fibers.

Handicraft pieces may be found in different cultural spaces and sales outlets such as handicraft stores downtown and in the Amazonas Shopping Center, in the India Museum, in the Branco e Silva Handicraft Center, in the Adolpho Lisboa City Market and in the Artíndia Museum.

BRAZILIAN GEMS

Brazil is known for the richness of its gems fact that boosted one of the richest periods in its history. As a result, the country has developed a varied industry of quality jewels that the visitor can find in stores downtown, in sophisticated hotels and in the Amazonas Shopping Center.

The Amazon jewellery is characterized by the mixture of gems, gold and natural products from the forest such as seeds, the arumã, the interlaced straw from the açai palm, the jarina, known as the ivory from the Amazon and the seed of another palm, the tucumã, used in the making of earrings and rings, among others

GASTRONOMY

Due to the variety and richness of flavour, fish is the main product of the Amazon gastronomy. The tasty and perfumed tropical fruits, herbs, peppers and the ingredients made from manioc, such as flour, provide the complement of the rich and healthy regional cuisine based on forest products well-known for their medicinal properties.

The restaurants of the capital also offer international menus, as well as other specialties from the Brazilian cuisine.

Much appreciated by locals and visitors, the regional breakfast is a tradition. Fruit juices, tucumã, pupunha, cassava cake, tapioca, banana porridge and so many others make up the delicious morning meal.

Among the main fish served, at the table of the local people, are the tambaqui, the pirarucu, the jaraqui and the tucunaré. Whether charcoal- roasted, fried or in sauce, they are always repared with salt, lemon and green species. Another delicious dish is the traditional caldeirada (a fish soup-type dish with vegetables and pepper sauce and tucupi sauce) garnished with manioc flour porridge cooked with eggs and herbs.

The fruits with exotic names and flavours such as cupuaçu, açaí, graviola are served either fresh or as flavours in refreshments, ice-creams, sweets and liqueurs.

The variety of the exotic flavours of the Amazon, represent another attraction for those coming from overseas in search for novelties typical of the region.

THE MANAUS HARBOUR

The Manaus Harbour represents one of the most important architectural assets of the city, a product of the British engineering, during the rubber boom period. It was declared, as a National historical Heritage, in 1987 e comprises a great number of buildings. The Manaus Harbour is located near the most ancient houses of the capital and it has a floating pier where the visitor can see the marks left by the great floods of the Negro River. The Harbour Museum tells the history of navigation in the Amazon region and also of the construction the Harbour itself.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MANAUS HARBOUR

LOCATION

Latitude South: 3º 8'30"
Longitude West: 50º 59'

ACCESS

By road: BR-174 and BR-319 linking the Harbour to the States of Rondônia and Roraima, respectively and AM-010 (Manaus-Itacoatiara)

Maritime: From the mouth of the Amazon River (10 meters deep) to the Negro River in Manaus there are nearly 1500 kilometers of a navigable waterway.
From the mouth of the Negro River to the Manaus Harbour there are nearly 15 kilometers fact that restricts the length in 500 meters and the depth to 35 meters.
Fluvial: the access to the Harbour is via the Negro River, which is an affluent of the Amazon River.

FACILITIES
The floating dock measure 253 meters in length and 24 meters in width, with two extensions at each end.
The floating dock named TORRES measures 262,7 meters in length and 19,1 meters in width.

The MALCHER platform measures 1,755 meters in length and 138 meters in width with two sectors, which are fixed during the flood season. The first measures 138 meters in width and the second measures 158 meters. The access to the Torres dock of this platform is done through a 10-meter wide by 115-meter long bridge.

Dimensions of the Docks
Fixed Docks: 289,45-meter wall
Platform: 304,19 meters

Note: it is not possible to moor on these docks at certain periods of the year due to low-level waters

Floating Docks:
Roadway: 253 meters
Torres: 263,20 meters

SERVICES
Drinking Water: Nearly 100 mm at each terminal to supply the vessels.
Roadway: 4 terminals for fuel supply
Torres: 6 terminals for fuel supply
Power Supply: 220/380V

Fotos: www.fotoamazonia.com.br

The Amazon region: the largest and the most complex ecosystem in the planet.

VTQUATRO

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